

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O 211917Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6697

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0335

STADIS/EXDIS////////////////////////////////

MOSCOW FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE JO SY XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING-ASAD VISIT

REF: AMMAN0318

1. KING RETURNED EARLY EVENING JANUARY 21 FROM DAMASCUS AND GAVE ME DEBRIEF ON HIS TALKS. THIS CABLE WILL REPORT MAIN POINTS ADDITIONAL DETAILS BY SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW TOMORROW.

2. KING SAID SITUATION IS MORE DEPRESSING AND HOPELESS THAN HE REALIZED. IT HAS BEEN A TOUGH DAY". HE APPEARS GENERALLY NERVOUS TENSE AND DEPRESSED HIMSELF, BUT STILL RETAINS ABILITY TO SMILE AT THE FEW HUMOROUS ASPECTS OF THINGS.

3. NO PROGRESS TO REPORT FROM SYRIA. HE FEELS SYRIANS HAVE LOST SOME OF THEIR HOLD ONELEMENTS OF PLO INCLUDING SAIQA. I ASKED HOW THIS HAS HAPPENED. HE SAID THAT SYRIANS NO LONGER ABLE TO DELIVER AND CONSTANT SEEKING RESTRAINT FROM SAIQA AND OTHERS IN PLO WITHOUT DELIVERING ANYTHING AND IN FACE OF BUILDING PRESSURE MEANT ASAD COULD STILL ASK, BUT WOULD GET LESS AND LESS

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IN RETURN. SYRIAN STRATEGY CONTINUES TO GAIN

ACCEPTANCE OF FIVE POINTS.

4. HE HAD HEARD REPORTS THAT NOW DRUZE WERE GETTING INVOLVED.

.5. SYRIANS ARE STILL WAITING FROM FRANJIEH TO ACCEPT THE FIVE POINTS. HE TOLS SYRIANS A FEW DAYS AGO HE ACCEPTED THEM EXCEPT FOR SOME MINOR ISSUES.THESE HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE MAJOR QUESTIONS, FOR EXAMPLE SYRIANS ALSO SAY FRANJEIH CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT WHOLE ISSUE OF WHO CAN DISMISS A PRIME MINISTER UNDER FIVE POINTS BE RESOLVED BEFORE HE WILL AGREE.

6. KING SAID HE WORKED HARD ON QUESTION OF CHAMOUN, BOTH IN GETTING SYRINS TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO GET HIM TO COME ALONG AND ALSO MAKING CLEAR THAT HE ON HIS OWN WOULD USE HIS BEST EFFORTS TO GET CHAMOUN T AGREE TO FIVE POINTS. KING URGED ASAD TO INSTRUCT KHADDAM, SHIBAH, AND JAMIL TO BE POSITIVE WITH CHAMOUN.

7. JORDAN AMBASSADOR COULD NOT LEAVE BIERUT TODAY MET KHADDAM COMING IN OVERLAND AND KAHDDAM TURNED HIM AROUND BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING. KING SAYD THAT ASAD IS NOW NOT IN TOUCH WITH KHADDAM WHO IS LOCKED INTO BEIRUT BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING. KING EXPECTS KHADDAM AND SHIHABI WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO DAMASCUS VERY SOON.

8. KING GAVE ME DETAILED READ OUT ON DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION. MAIN IMPORT WAS THAT PALESTINIANS AND EXTREMISTS NOW CONTROL GOOD PORTION OF LEBANON'S BORDER WITH SYRIA AND HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN TAKING OR ISOLATING A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POINTS WITH COUNTRY.

9. SYRIANS TOLD KING EGYPT IS PUSHING TO SEND IN PLO AIN JALOUH BRIGADE FROM EGYPT AND IRAQIS DOING THE SAME WITH QADDISIEH BRIGADE UNDER THEIR CONTROL. SYRIANS ARE TRYING TO STOP BOTH MOVEMENTS.

10. SYRIANS STILL PUSHING FOR A STOP TO FIGHTING AND A SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF FIVE POINTS. KING SAYS HOWEVER THAT AS TIME GOES ON AND SYRIAN INFLUENCE ERODES WITH PALESTINIANS AND MUSLIM LEFT SECRET

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HE AND (I ASSUME SYRIANS) HAVE CONCLUDED THIS (5 POINTS) WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.

11. KING SAYS HE HAS SEPARATE REPORTS NOT FROM THE SYRIANS THAT SAIQA IS RATHER HEVILY INVOLVED IN THE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LEBANON.

12. KING DID NOT WITH THE IDEA OF QUARANTEES. WHEN HE RAISED IT

ASAD MERELY SAID THAT MIGHT WORK IF THE "LEBANESE COULD PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER TO INVITE US".

13. ASAD APPARENTLY STILL VERY FEARFUL OF AN ISRAELI RIPOSTE TO ANY SYRIAND DIRECT INTERVENTION AND KING BELIEVES HE WILL CONTINUE TO ACT TO AVOID SUCH A STEP.

14. ASAD STILL PUTS A LOT OF BLAME ON THE PALESTINIANS AND SAYS HE HAS TOLD THEM THAT THEY CANNOT BE A STATE WITHIN A STATE. THIS IS INTOLERABLE. THEY SHOULD HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALL ARMS ONLY TO RIPOSTE TO ANY ISRAELI RAIDS AND THEY SHOULD WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH LEBANESE ARMY AS THEIR MAIN DEFENSE.

15. KING SAYD HE IS NOW AFRAID THAT CHRISTIANS ARABS WILL SEEK HELP FROM ISRAELIS WHICH HE FINDS INTOLERABLE ALSO. HE SAYD HE HOPES WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO CONTINUE TO KEEP ISRAELIS OUT.

16. ASAD, KING SAYD SHOWS OF LOT OF SUSPICION OF SOVIET MOTIVES SAYING "WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL OF OUR FRIENDS".

17. KING CONCLUDED THAT WHILE HE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE NOW IT WOULD JUST FALL INTO THAT HANDS OF THE EXTREMEISTS WHO CONTROL THE BORDER AREAS AND WHO WOULD BE THE FIRST GEORGRAPHICALLY TO GET ANY HELP HE MIGHT SEND.  
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